

## *Tradescantia albiflora*

### **Common name:**

Wandering Jew,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Seldom eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Low risk.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Cattle and dogs.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Nitrates.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Panting,
- . Staggering,
- . Collapse, with no struggling before death,
- . Chocolate coloured blood.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Rapid death can eventuate.
- . Allergenic reactions in dogs, skin irritations on stomach.

*Treatment;*

- . Weed out all pieces.
- . Glyphosates with a wetting agent is only a temporary fix. Try Erase®.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Be aware of potential problems.

### **Comments:**

- . A weak, succulent, creeping, perennial.
- . Leaves are parallel, simple, veined, oblong and glossy, with hairy sheathes.
- . Stems are succulent, and easily snapped, branching and trailing, plants root at the stem nodes.

- . White flowers with three petals in bunches at the end of stems, September to February.
- . Fruit is a three chambered capsule, with six seeds. (These may not be viable, in Australia.)
- . Spread is by stem fragments, growth is rapid, a succulent, drought tolerant plant.
- . Found in moist shady gullies and banks.
- . There are two distinct phases of growth;
- . Sterile form is mainly prostrate.
- . Fertile stems are upright and have a reduced capacity to form roots.
- . Stems and leaves are water repellent, so a spreading agent is needed for herbicides to be effective.
- . Frost cuts back plants, but they quickly regenerate from stems.
- . A native of South America.
- . Found all over Australia.
- . Tolerates sun, shade and drought, although frost tender it prefers moist areas.
- . Often confused with *Commelina cyanea* - Scurvy weed, which has blue flowers.



Picture: *Tradescantia albiflora*

Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

### **Further Reading:**

- . Blood. Environmental Weeds of AE Australia. CRC Weed Management Systems. 2003.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants of Australia, Handbook. 1983.